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REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12 and 21-26 are canceled and claims 11, 13 and 27 are amended herein. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 11, 13-20 and 27 will be pending in the above-identified application.

Applicants acknowledge the allowability of claims 11, 13-20 and 27.

Drawings

Applicants request reconsideration of the objection under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). The cited language has been removed from the claims thereby making the objection moot. Further, the first paragraph on page 8 of the application states,

The backboard assembly 14 may be attached to the elongate shell 12 using any suitable releasable or permanent attachment. However, as illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6, in the exemplary embodiment the backboard 100 includes a plurality of openings, generally referred to by the reference numeral 136, within the body 104 adjacent a peripheral edge 138 of the body for stitching the backboard 100 to the cover 102, the elongate shell 12, or both. For example, in one embodiment, the backboard 100 is stitched to the cover 102 using the openings 136, and the cover is separately attached to the elongate shell 12 using any suitable attachment. In another embodiment, the backboard 100 is stitched to the elongate shell 12 using the openings 136 and the cover 102 is not separately attached to the shell. In yet another embodiment, the backboard 100 is stitched to both the cover 102 and the elongate shell 12 using the openings 136. Although other shapes are envisioned for the openings 136 without departing from the scope of the present invention, in one embodiment the openings 136 are generally circular.

As stated above, the shell is attached to the cover and the cover is stitched to the body. Thus, the shell is indirectly attached to the body by the openings 136 as shown in the drawings. This comports with the scope of the claims.

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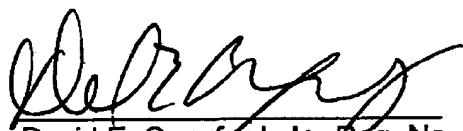
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by an interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

As it is believed that application is in condition for allowance, a favorable action and Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Dated: June 20, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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